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Summary record of the 49th meeting
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Chairman: Mr. Maertens (Vice-Chairperson) ..... (Belgium)

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In the absence of Mr. Belinga-Eboutou, Mr. Maertens (Belgium), Vice-Chairperson, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Agenda item 110: Advancement of women *(continued)* (A/C.3/58/L.18 and A/C.3/58/L.21/Rev.1)

Draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.18: Violence against women migrant workers

1. **The Chairman** informed the Committee that the draft resolution had no budgetary implications and announced that Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guatemala, Haiti, Paraguay, Peru, Senegal, Swaziland and Timor-Leste had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

2. **Ms. Banzon** (Philippines) announced that, in addition to the countries just listed by the Chairman, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chile, Ecuador, Ghana, Indonesia, Mexico, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Tunisia had also become sponsors of the draft resolution.

3. She then read out a number of revisions to the draft. In the second preambular paragraph, the words "outcome of the" in the first line and the words "specifically as the results pertain to women migrant workers" in the last line should be deleted. The third preambular paragraph had been redrafted to read as follows: "Noting the various activities initiated by entities in the United Nations system, such as the Hemispheric Conference on Migration, co-organized by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the International Organization for Migration, held in Santiago in November 2002, as well as other activities that continue to assess and alleviate the plight of women migrant workers." In operative paragraph 16, the words "adoption by the General Assembly" in the first line should be replaced by "imminent entry into force". Lastly, in operative paragraph 18, the word "submit" in the first line should be replaced by the word "report" and the words "a report" in the second line should be deleted.

4. Her delegation hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

5. **The Chairman** announced that the following countries had also become sponsors: Bolivia, Croatia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Gambia, Honduras, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Togo and Uruguay.

6. *Draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.18, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote.*

Draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.21/Rev.1: Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas

7. **The Chairman** informed the Committee that the draft resolution had no budgetary implications.

8. **Mr. Gansukh** (Mongolia) said that the revised text of the draft resolution was the outcome of informal and bilateral consultations between delegations, whom he wished to thank for their valuable input. His delegation and the co-sponsors of the draft hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

9. **The Chairman** announced that the following countries had become sponsors of the draft resolution: Angola, Bolivia, Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, El Salvador, Honduras, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tunisia and Uganda.

10. *Draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.21/Rev.1 was adopted without a vote.*

Agenda item 117: Human rights questions *(continued)*

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms *(continued)* (A/C.3/58/L.46)

Draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.46: Human rights and cultural diversity

11. **The Chairman** informed the Committee that the draft resolution had no budgetary implications and announced that the following countries had become co-sponsors: Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, China, Congo, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait,

Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Myanmar, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Surinam, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania and Vietnam

12. **Mr. de Barros** (Secretary of the Committee) read out the amendments made to the draft resolution on the occasion of its presentation by the main sponsor. In the second preambular paragraph, the word "and" before "55/23" was replaced by a comma and the words "and 57/204 of 10 February 2003" were inserted after the words "4 December 2000". Operative paragraph 4 was deleted.

13. **The Chairman** announced that Niger had become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

14. **Ms. Layton** (Chile), speaking in explanation of her delegation's position before the adoption of a decision, reiterated the great importance her delegation attached to the dignity of all human beings without distinction. Chile had associated itself with the draft's sponsors because it deeply respected cultural diversity and was convinced that neither relatively slow development nor cultural particularities could justify any limitation of rights recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international instruments for the promotion and protection of those rights.

15. *Draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.46, as orally amended, was adopted without a vote.*

16. **Ms. Groux** (Switzerland), speaking on behalf of Australia, Canada, Liechtenstein, New Zealand and Norway, welcomed the fact that the Committee had rationalized its work, as repeatedly suggested, by biennializing the consideration of draft resolutions that did not entail specific follow-up operations.

Agenda item 106: Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family *(continued)* (A/C.3/58/L.2 and A/C.3/58/L.48)

17. **Ms. Elisha** (Benin) asked the Chairman why the first of the draft resolutions listed in the agenda for the meeting had been set aside without any explanation being given to its main sponsors. She felt that delegations should have been advised of the change before the meeting.

18. **Ms. Ahmed** (Sudan), agreeing with the previous speaker, wondered why the Committee had not been given due notice of the fact that two of the draft resolutions it was scheduled to consider no longer appeared on the agenda for the meeting. The Secretariat should inform the Committee of any difficulty or change before the process of deciding on other draft resolutions was embarked upon.

19. **Mr. Roshdy** (Egypt), speaking as a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.48 as well as a member of the Committee, recalled that the draft had been issued the previous week and the Committee was to have adopted a decision on it at the present meeting. He would be grateful if, in order not to jeopardize the proceedings, the Chairman were in future to announce any change as soon as a difficulty arose. Delegations had shown great flexibility thus far and were certainly not unaware of time constraints, but they ought not to be made to feel that a draft resolution was being "held hostage" to other negotiations.

20. **Mr. de Barros** (Secretary of the Committee) reminded members that the financial implications of the amendments to draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.2 submitted by Benin in document A/C.3/58/L.12 were set out in document A/C.3/58/L.26. The new amendments to the draft resolution contained in document A/C.3/58/L.48 had been submitted for consideration to the Budget Division, which had not yet provided an answer.

21. **Mrs. Elisha** (Benin) objected to the fact that document A/C.3/58/L.26 had been issued before the conclusion of negotiations concerning document A/C.3/58/L.12, and wondered how the Secretariat could tell that amendments to the original draft would have financial implications. Given the shortness of the draft, she wondered how much more time would be needed in order to assess those implications. Exactly which paragraphs were creating a problem? Rather than merely report that problems had arisen, the Secretariat ought to explain what those problems were.

22. **Mr. de Barros** (Secretary of the Committee) reminded delegations of the procedure followed in connection with all draft resolutions. The amendments to the draft resolution of concern to the Benin delegation had been submitted to the Budget Division as soon as they became known to the Secretariat, but no reply had as yet been received. He assured the representative of Benin that he would again contact the

Budget Division, and regretted being unable to provide further explanations.

23. **Mr. Mubarez** (Yemen) drew attention to an error in the Arabic translation of the title of draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.49. The draft was concerned with massive exoduses, not with migrations, which were an entirely different matter. He requested that the error be rectified and said that he would comment on the draft resolution once it was available in Arabic.

24. **Ms. Astanah Banu** (Malaysia) expressed the hope that a prompt solution would be found to the problem of draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.2 and the amendments thereto. Over the past few weeks the documents in question had already been listed several times among those scheduled for a decision by the Committee. She also asked the Secretariat whether it could produce a list of all draft resolutions accompanied by their symbols, thus facilitating the work of delegations.

25. **Mr. Zhang Lei** (China) said that his delegation shared the views expressed by Benin, Egypt and Sudan. Before announcing that the Committee was to take a decision on certain draft resolutions, the Secretariat should make sure that all preliminaries relating to those drafts had been completed. He also supported the request just made by Malaysia.

26. **The Chairman** said that the Secretariat would provide delegations with a list of all draft resolutions the next morning.

27. **Mr. Moungara-Moussotsi** (Gabon) said that his delegation and the other sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.28 concerning the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, submitted under agenda item 113, one of whose operative paragraph was expected to entail financial implications, had still not received the information they had requested on the status of those implications.

28. **Mr. Roshdy** (Egypt) said that the comments he was about to make might help to explain the sense of frustration felt by certain delegations. Since its introduction, draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.28 had had what might fairly be described as a rough ride. It had formed the subject of arduous negotiations, in the course of which document A/C.3/5/L.26 – the like of which he had not seen in his six years of experience at the United Nations - had been introduced, seriously affecting the progress of the negotiations. The previous evening, while preparations with a view to the adoption of the draft had been in progress, the sponsors had been informed that the fate of the draft was linked to that of another draft relating to a different agenda item, which was running into difficulties. The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.28 did not hold the Secretariat - whose efforts they appreciated - responsible for the situation, but felt that the process should not be allowed to drag on indefinitely for no real reason.

29. **Mr. de Barros** (Secretary of the Commission), replying to the representative of Gabon, said that the Budget Division was putting the final touches to its response concerning the programme budget implications of the draft resolution. The Secretariat should receive the necessary information very shortly.

Agenda item 117 (b): Questions relating to human rights, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms *(continued)*
(A/C.3/58/L.49)

Draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.49: Human rights and mass exoduses

30. **Mr. Von Kaufmann** (Canada), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, said that Greece had likewise become a sponsor. The draft resolution, which was traditionally adopted by consensus every two years, had been enriched with elements borrowed from the resolution adopted by consensus at the latest session of the Commission on Human Rights. At the conclusion of a transparent process of informal consultations, a consensus had again emerged in respect of the draft now before the Committee.

31. The following corrections weere to be made in the third preambular paragraph, the words "including its resolution 57/187 of 18 December 2002" should be deleted; in operational paragraph 7, the words "humanitarian personnel" should be moved to the end of the paragraph, preceded by the word "by", in operative paragraph 8, the comma and the word "sexual" in the first line should be replaced by the word "and", a comma being inserted after the word "abuse", in the third line of the same paragraph, commas should be inserted after the word "preventing" and the words "allegations of", in the fifth line of operative paragraph 9, the words "and, where

appropriate" should be inserted after "return home" and the words "where appropriate" after "such information" should be deleted, and, lastly, in the sixth line of the same paragraph, the word "thereon" should be inserted after the word "recommendations".

32 His delegation hoped that the Committee would once again adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

33 **The Chairman** said that Estonia, Iceland, Malta, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

34 **Ms. Al Haj Ali** (Syrian Arab Republic), recalling that she had asked the Secretariat whether it was acceptable to introduce a draft resolution under an agenda item that did not correspond to the contents of the draft resolution, said that she would appreciate an answer soon as possible.

The meeting rose at 4.20 p.m.